



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1997

No. 115

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

O God, You have prophesied through Isaiah, "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You"—Isaiah 26:3; and promised through Jesus, "Peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."—John 14:27.

That is the quality of peace we need to do our work creatively today. Often the conflict and tension present in our lives threaten to rob us of a calm and restful mind and heart. It is so easy to catch the emotional virus of frustration and exasperation. Help us to remember that Your peace is a healing antidote to anxiety that can survive in any circumstance.

Provider of peace, give us the peace of a cleansed heart, a free and forgiving heart, a caring and compassionate heart. Right now, may Your deep peace flow into us, calming our impatience and flowing from us to others.

Especially, we pray for Your peace for the women and men of this Senate. May Your profound inner peace free them to think clearly and speak decisively while maintaining the bond of peace with one another. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it is worth coming to the opening moments of the

Senate session each day just to hear the Chaplain's prayers. I wish to express, again, my sincere appreciation for the beauty and for the meaningfulness of those prayers. It gives us the right frame of mind to begin a day's work together for the American people.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of amendment No. 1077, offered by the Senator from Indiana, Senator COATS, who is here and prepared to go. This is an amendment, of course, to S. 1061, the Labor, HHS appropriations bill. It is hoped that an agreement can be reached this morning to conduct a vote on the Coats amendment by mid-morning, hopefully within the hour.

In addition, Members can anticipate additional votes on amendments currently pending to the Labor, HHS appropriations bill and other amendments expected to be offered to the bill throughout the day's session. I understand a couple of amendments have been offered and set aside. I know there are some other amendments pending. As always, Members will be notified of exactly what time the votes will be scheduled. We will work with all Members to make sure they have an opportunity to offer their amendments and debate them, and then, of course, we will have votes, if necessary.

I ask, again, that all Senators cooperate with our managers on both sides of the aisle. They are trying to move this very important legislation that means so much to our country. And, as is quite often the case when we return from a period back in our respective States, we have not gotten off to a fast start. We hope to complete this very important appropriations bill today. We do have some problems and some delays. I would like to address those just for a moment.

First, with regard to tomorrow, it is still my intent to have a cloture vote

in the morning. We have not set a time. It could be as early as 8:30 to accommodate Senators' schedules, on the cloture motion on the Food and Drug Administration reform bill. We need to get this bill done. It was reported out overwhelmingly from the committee, and it has broad bipartisan support. Unfortunately, this is even a cloture vote on the motion to proceed.

The Senator from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY, has objections to this FDA reform. I thought we had them worked out two or three times at the end of the session, before the August recess, and then it seemed to get away from us.

I hope we can get all the Senators to work together and work out agreements so we can move this very important legislation. It is very important to the health and general quality of life of all Americans. This is an agency that has been bureaucratic, it has been slow, it has not done its work where it should be doing its work, and it has tried to force itself into areas where it really doesn't belong. This is long overdue.

I, again, am interested in getting it done. But if we have to, we will have more than one vote or votes on cloture. We need to go ahead and complete this. I think, once we can get it to debate and vote, it will not take very long. If we can work out something, by the way, on the bill, before the time, then we would not have to have a cloture vote tomorrow. I would be glad to work with the leaders on the legislation, Democratic leaders, to decide on a time when it would be debated and when that would be scheduled, either later on this week, or Monday or Tuesday. We will work together on that.

CONTESTED LOUISIANA ELECTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the other issue I want to address is some of the problems we have today. When we have something brought to the Senate that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

S8765